



## **Brewster Conservation Trust**

PROTECTING BREWSTER'S WOODLANDS, PONDS, MARSHES AND MEADOWS  
FOR TODAY AND FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

### **Public Access Policy**

Updated September 7, 2022

The mission of the Brewster Conservation Trust (BCT) is to preserve open space, natural resources, and the rural character of Brewster; and to promote a conservation ethic. When consistent with its mission, BCT offers limited access to some properties for public passive recreation. These properties are maintained by BCT staff and volunteers to encourage the public to connect with nature and our mission. We welcome everyone to enjoy these properties but have established the following policy to minimize damage to the natural resources. All users of BCT properties enter the properties at their risk.

Individuals seeking to hold an event or group activity on BCT Property should contact the BCT office at 508-694-6720 for more information and approval.

#### **Policies for all BCT properties open for public access:**

- Properties are open from dawn to dusk.
- Visitors should stay on marked trails.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times. Owners are required to pick up and properly dispose of dog waste. BCT reserves the right to close any property to dogs due to environmental concerns.
- Properties are smoking and tobacco free.

#### **Permitted activities:**

- Hiking and running on marked trails.
- Fishing, in accordance with state laws, unless otherwise indicated.
- Kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boarding. Storage of any watercraft on BCT property is prohibited, and BCT reserves the right to remove any watercraft that is stored on its property.
- Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

#### **Prohibited activities:**

- Hunting and trapping.
- Biking and use of motorized vehicles.
- Riding or leading horses.
- Creating new trails.
- Pruning or removing vegetation.
- Using metal detectors.
- Disturbing the soil or digging to bury, uncover or remove items.
- Placing man-made items (e.g., plastic Christmas ornaments). BCT reserves the right to remove any objects it feels may harm wildlife or the environment.
- Open Burning (smoking, campfires, grills, fireworks, etc.).
- Camping.

BCT has developed trails on properties with special consideration of the impacts of the trails and the unique features of the properties. We acknowledge that there are “unofficial trails” on some BCT properties. These trails typically existed prior to BCT’s acquisition of the properties, and BCT does not

maintain them. Using them is permissible in accordance with the rules above and at the user's own risk. **Creation of new trails is prohibited without permission from BCT.**

If it is determined that an "unofficial trail" is creating a significant impact on the land in one or more environmentally sensitive areas, the trail will be closed.